

**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION (LRC)  
ENERGY POLICY ISSUES**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 15, 2012**

**Presentation –Verbatim**

**Questions and Answers**

**W. Daniel Amburn, Legislative Specialist, North Carolina League of Municipalities.**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Daniel Amburn with the League of Municipalities and we were asked to give an update on where we were with our discussions between municipalities on fracking and to give a general update on what we were doing to discuss the issue.

Let me begin by saying that we don't currently have a position on fracking. We have heard of municipalities that see a very positive economic benefit from this and on the other side we see some legitimate concerns from other municipalities, and knowing that, we have facilitated the education of our membership. That started back in December with our fracking symposium and we invited a full spectrum of speakers, ranging from the American Petroleum Institute to the North Carolina Conversation Network and a few in between. Mr. Treake was one of the speakers. We also had Vic Ralph from Artec to speak and we just laid it all out on the table so our members could make their own decision. After that, we have also recently begun working with the counties and North Carolina State's Agricultural Extension, the Nicholas School at Duke, the School of Government and, I'm going to miss somebody in that equation, but we have started to develop a guide, a grouping of issues that local government and state officials should consider when addressing fracking and this not a pro-fracking or anti-fracking group, it is merely a collection of individuals who want to make sure that anyone who is considering fracking has every tool at their behest. We are also developing a pool of resources associated with that list so that both those local government officials and you all will be able to see some of the concerns that are coming out of the municipalities and from the local governments at the county level and otherwise.

That group has recently started so we haven't gotten into the meat of that work yet, but that list is populating fairly quickly. It tended to begin with the water issues that you would normally assume to be associated with fracking and the wastewater, typically things that have been very popular, but it has also gotten down to infrastructure impacts, emergency management response, and legitimate concerns for the industry on the whole.

Actually today we had our policy committee meeting where we assigned a sub-committee to deal with fracking in and of itself. We are very privileged to be able to speak today and we offer our assistance and that sub-committee's assistance for any type of discussion this committee should need.

Questions:

Senator Rucho: Mr. Amburn, I hope that it is not because the media played it off, but shale gas exploration and production, horizontal drilling, and hydro fracking are all part of the process, so I hope you are focusing on the whole process and not just a buzz word.

Mr. Amburn: Exactly, it's the oil and natural gas extraction, it's the oil industry, and it is everything associated with it. It's not simply the fracking portion. We are very cognizant of the limited role that fracking has in terms of the expanse of the scope of the industry.

Senator Rucho: Good.